



The Council of Churches in Zambia

All correspondence to be addressed to the General Secretary

2nd March 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Sir,

CREATION OF OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OMBUDSPERSON

Ecumenical Greetings from Africa and in particular from the Council of Churches in Zambia CCZ.

The Council of Churches in Zambia is an ecumenical umbrella organisation for mainline protestant churches which has been in existence for over 100 years. Over the years the organisation has stood for the promotion of human dignity and transformation of society through various development programmes embracing justice in gender equality, climate change, social and economic accountability and equitable community beneficiation in extractive resource governance.

We write to appeal to your good office to strongly encourage and support the government of Canada to affirm the creation of the office of Human Rights Ombudsperson being fully aware of presence and influence of Canadian mining companies operating around the world and in particular Africa. We believe that this action will help strengthen the advocacy work that CCZ and many other civil society organisations have been undertaking in Africa around resource governance nationally, regionally and internationally pointing to resource governance and its intricate and complex negative impact on the developing world i.e. calling for the following:

- ❖ A stop to illicit financial flows from Africa i.e. promoting transparent and accountable mechanisms in the mining industry
- ❖ An extractive industry that is cognisant of the extreme dangers of climate change where over 200 million people are anticipated to perish this century through floods and droughts as a result of unmitigated greenhouse gasses that come directly and indirectly from mining smelting.
- ❖ A gender sensitive extractive industry.

In view of the above, the Council of Churches in Zambia humbly and fervently supports the realisation of the Human Rights Ombudsperson's office.

Yours faithfully

ABRAHAM CHIKASA
HEAD OF PROGRAMMES

- CC:
1. Mr. Francois-Philippe Champagne - The Minister of Trade, Government of Canada
 2. Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, Programme Coordinator, Southern Africa/Southern Asia – United Church of Canada, Toronto
 3. Rev. Dr. Suzanne Matala, General Secretary, Council of Churches in Zambia